

March 13, 1974

Please speak to that point. Senator Cal Carsten. Senator Cal Carsten.

SENATOR CAL CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I...I hesitate to rise but I feel that I must. Here again the Legislature is doing something and bypassing the committee's structure to the best of my knowledge they ...the bill referral is left to a committee. And I think it's...we should...we have for the most part accepted that wisdom of that committee. And I think we better leave it that way. We are constantly eroding our committee structure and has been stated here just not very many minutes ago. I'm opposed to doing this on the floor of the Legislature. Let's let the proper channels take its course. I don't think we're slowing the bill by doing it.

PRESIDENT: The motion before us is shall it be referred to the Appropriations Committee. If it's referred. Are you all through discussing that? Senator Stahmer, Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I just came in, unfortunately, so will you read the amendment?

PRESIDENT: The amendment....the motion is.....

CLERK: The motion is to return LB1052 to a committee and then Senator Stahmer offered an amendment to provide to the Appropriations Committee.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, I don't say this disrespectfully of the Appropriations Committee. They can't handle what they're normally supposed to handle. And that's self-evident because they haven't got the budget bill out here. Why give them a diversionary thing that really they will never get around to putting it out and I refuse, I refuse absolutely to let eight men determine what twenty-five people ought to do. You can talk about the committee structure but that's an excuse and not a reason. The whole position of this Legislature is what to get the bills on Final Reading. That's where you make the determination. I don't propose doing it quietly and letting a committee kill a good bill because in the committee they have five or four that doesn't want to come to the floor. Do you people need protection? Do you want somebody to protect you? Are you willing to stand on your own feet and attempt to understand what's in a bill? And to let a committee kill a bill in which you don't have the least knowledge in order to protect you from the standpoint (indistinguishable) responsibility, I think that's completely ridiculous. Unbecoming. (indistinguishable) to a man who aspires and is a state senator. I'm not willing to give my authority and my responsibility and my thoughts to four men who by four votes can prevent a bill from coming from the committee. You see, my friends, I've been here a long time. And it's about ready to expire, thank God, I'm sure you're all in agreement with that. But you kill good bills, not bad ones. Good bills. Why? Because those people are confronted with changing their status, they believe in the status quo. They don't want to be confronted with anything that's new or different. They can live with what they've got and they know most of us. And I say again there are committees in this state, in this Legislature, that are stacked. Always have been and always will be. What's the first order of business when they meet the first day? What? Who's going to be on the Banking Committee and the Public Works Committee.